



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Vicksburg District

# THE Water's Edge Summer 2008

## THE FLOODS OF 2008

**Recreation area named for  
long-time volunteer**

**Thunder on Water promotes  
safe boating**

# THE Water's Edge

Summer 2008

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**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

News magazine of the  
Vicksburg District  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

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## District Engineer's Corner

with Col. Michael C. Wehr



# To Teammates of the Vicksburg District...

The Corps' motto is Essayons! We have heard it many times, but this spring and summer we lived in the two part Flood of 2008. It began on Easter weekend in the lower Mississippi Valley and ended in late April. During that time the Mississippi river reached its highest level in 35 years at the Vicksburg gauge: an incredible 51 feet.

Despite the historic nature of the spring flood on the Mississippi River, it did not make national news. Instead, it went by almost unnoticed by all, except those who lived below the levees that were holding back the chocolate tide. In simple terms, the flood damage risk reduction infrastructure, (formally known as flood control), worked. Years of hard work and millions of dollars in contracts, designs, construction, evaluations and partnerships paid off.

The summer Flood of 2008 occurred in the upper Mississippi Valley, taking much of June, and waters were receding by early July. It came quickly and filled up the tributaries in the upper Mississippi Valley, especially in Iowa where more than a dozen levees- private, local, and federal, were overtopped and or failed. More than 36,000 people were left homeless in what some are calling a 500-year event.

During the spring Flood of 2008, support came to Vicksburg District from around the Corps and the Valley in the way of persons, advice and technical expertise. During the summer flood in the upper Mississippi Valley, Vicksburg District employees deployed to support the states of Iowa, Illinois and Missouri. Our flood here provided a great trial run and practice for our efforts in flood fighting.

A truly valiant effort was put forth by the cities, counties and state governments in those 3 states along with direct support from the Rock Island District and the Mississippi Valley Division. National guardsmen and volunteers from around the country came to fill sand bags, shore up levees, fill sink holes and do all that was needed to try to protect life and property. Despite the Herculean effort, the battle was lost in some cases as the event simply exceeded the designs of many of those levees.

We bear upon our shoulders a great responsibility to protect vast reaches of homes, businesses and crop lands; no other agency assumes such a responsibility. This agency is a team of dedicated professionals who sacrifice their time and their wits to live with the floods of Mother Nature.

As our Commander Brig. Gen. Michael J. Walsh has said, we must face this adversary as a whole unit, no longer just as individual districts. We implemented that vision in fighting these two floods by sharing personnel, expertise and anything else needed to try to win.

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Walsh calls it E3: Efficiently, Effectively and with Excellence focus the entire region on project delivery. Regionalize strategic messages to our customers, stakeholders and Congress, and implement the best practices of each community of practice.

We cannot guarantee that our efforts will always be successful, but we can guarantee that any failure will not be because of lack of effort or dedication. I am humbled to serve with you on this amazing team.

ESSAYONS!

## Turner receives Robert L. (Stoney) Burke Award as Boss of the Year



Col Wehr presents award to Mike Turner

Michael A. Turner, assistant chief of design branch of the engineering and construction division recently received the Boss of the Year Award at the District's annual awards ceremony.

As assistant chief of design branch, Turner is responsible for full participation in the management, supervision, coordination, direction, and review of engineering design functions of the branch.

He assists the chief, design branch, in the overall management, supervision, direction, coordination, and planning of the branch's activities. He also provides leadership to employees through mentoring, coaching, and counseling with regards to career advice and individual development.

Turner, a civil engineer, is a graduate of Mississippi State University, and a member of the Society of American Military Engineers.

# Electrical work keeps potable water flowing to Baghdad

BY: KENDAL SMITH  
GULF REGION CENTRAL DISTRICT

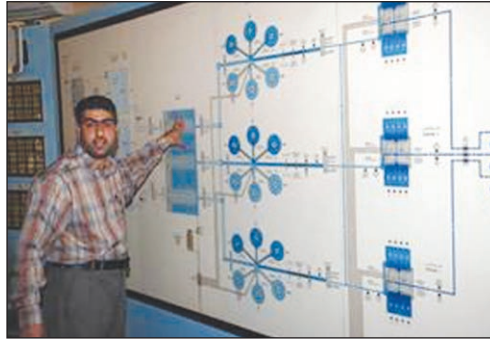
The Gulf Region Division is working to ensure Baghdad's water supply with non-stop operations for the Karkh Water Treatment Plant (KWTP) near Taji, northwest of Baghdad. In a \$20 million project, the back-up generator system is being restored to keep potable water flowing to 50 percent of Baghdad's residents without interruption or worries over low levels in reservoirs.

The plant pumps an overall daily output of 1.36 million liters through a 2.1 meter diameter pipe connected to several Baghdad reservoirs, and also supplies the immediate communities around Karkh. Power outages at the plant stop the output cycle and water reserves and resources diminish.

"The electrical power for the plant sometimes is off for 3-4 hours a day, and that means we cannot contribute water to the reservoirs. That is not a good situation for our customers," reported an Iraqi plant engineer at Karkh.

In 2005, KWTP's generator and pump buildings, generators and important elements of the electrical controls,

Photos courtesy of GRD



**Above: A Karkh Water Treatment Plant engineer explains the status board for the plant. This board shows the raw water intake pumps, settling tanks, rotating sediment tanks, chlorinating tanks, large underground reservoirs and the large output pumps.**



switch gear, circuitry and 37 water-flow butterfly valves were heavily damaged by a vehicle-borne improvised-explosive device. Repair of the key elements for a continuous supply is expected to take until October.

"Good, clean water means a lot for any community-and Baghdad is no exception," said Navy Lt. Cdr. Paul Chan, officer in charge of the Gulf Region Central District's Resident Office in Taji. "This is a very significant project in the stabilization of essential services for the entire Baghdad area."

The Corps' project is primarily for design, supplies, labor and equipment relating to system repairs of the Rolls Royce – Avon 8.5 megawatt generators which are the backup power source for the plant. The project will also overhaul and replace raw and treated water valves to increase both efficiency and capacity of the plant.

**Left: Workers install a multi-conductor 11kv cable from the Substation to the BWA switchgear. This cable contains three 300 mm2 copper conductors and a concentric wrapped ground.**

## Annual Red River All-American Fishing Derby and Clinic held at Lock and Dam #2

STORY BY SHELLEY McDOWELL, LFO

On June 7, Corps sponsored the 8th Annual "Red River All-American Fishing Derby & Clinic" in celebration of the National Fishing and Boating Week. This event is held each year on the Red River and takes place on the first Free Fishing Day for the State of Louisiana. This year the derby was held at John H. Overton Lock & Dam #2 in Poland, LA (Rapides Parish).

The derby allows children and adults in various local parishes a chance to participate in an event that combines fishing instructions and environmental education to encourage healthy lifestyle choices.

National Fishing Week provides an opportunity to introduce children to the



joys of fishing, and it is a chance for all volunteers and participants to get out and enjoy the simple pleasures that fishing provides. This year's event attracted 110 participants who enjoyed food, refresh-



**Above: Project manager Shelley McDowell, left, is pictured with winners of the fishing derby, along with Marc Pons, natural resources management specialist, on right.**

**Left: The fishing derby afforded children an environmental education.**

ments, games, prizes, and trophies, all donated by the local business owners throughout the community.



# 2008 floods test Corps' flood damage reduction work

Photos courtesy of history files, and Alfred Dulaney



**"The Mississippi River at Lock and Dam #20 near the borders of Iowa, Missouri and Illinois during the summer Mississippi River flood. Flood waters overwhelmed the locks on the upper Mississippi river closing navigation for several weeks. The floods also left thousands homeless and hundreds of thousands of acres underwater."**

BY LAURA BETH LYONS, PAO

The largest flood on the lower Mississippi River since 1973 crested at 51.0 feet in Vicksburg on April 21 of this year. The Corps was able to prevent a repeat of the disastrous flood of 1973 with the help of completed projects and the patrolling of levees for slides and seepage.

The flood of 1973, which was caused by intense storm systems accompanied by torrential rainfalls, resulted in 5,309,650 acres being inundated. The disaster area covered 62 counties/parishes in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The Corps responded to the '73 emergency by raising the federally constructed levees, including 96 miles of the west bank Mississippi River Levee, 36 miles of Red River Backwater area levee, and 28 miles of levee surrounding Greenwood, Miss.

Floodwaters from the 1973 event caused 23 deaths and resulted in an estimated \$335.5 million in agricultural losses. Without flood control efforts by the Corps, 10,257,000 acres would have been inundated with associated flood damages estimated at \$4.7 billion.

The flood of this year presented a success story in flood fighting for the Corps.

By reinforcing the importance of establishing levees and other projects to prevent flood disasters, the Corps prevented the major issues in 1973 from happening again during this year's flood.

"This year we were within 0.6 feet of the 1973 flood," said Carl Pigott, emergency management specialist. "The 1973 response was a massive effort and this year's flood did not require nearly as much. The 1973 flood illustrated that numbers of miles of existing levees were not up to par. We have enlarged and raised a number of miles of these levees since then.

"The system performed very well overall. This flood fight took much less manpower and fewer materials than the '73 flood. It is a prime example highlighting the investment and improvements to the flood damage reduction system since 1973."

This year's flood was caused by intense rainfall throughout the central plains and Ohio River Valley in March and April that reached the lower Mississippi River Basin. The flow measured 1.8 million cubic feet per second which is capable of filling more than 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools in one second. At the height of flooding, an estimated 855,750 acres

in Mississippi were under water, including the Yazoo Backwater area and the land within the levees.

"The rains received in our District this year were much less than in '73 which made a huge difference in flooding on the tributaries or the Mississippi River," said Robert Simrall, chief, water control management section. "A lot of work has been completed since 1973 on the Yazoo Backwater levees and mainline Mississippi River work which also made a big difference."

Numerous areas along the Mississippi River levees were threatened during the flood events of 1973 and 2008 within the Vicksburg District. These areas reached a phase one stage and progressed to a phase two flood fight. A phase one stage requires patrolling the levees 12 hours a day, where a phase two stage requires around the clock, seven days a week patrolling.

During the phase one stage, archive searches were done to show the flood problem areas of the past. The archives date back many years and show the amount of effort needed and the main trouble spots. After the forecast to go into phase one efforts comes out, conference

*Continued on page 6*

**Floods**—Continued from page 5

calls are placed to the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), all of the levee boards which include the 5th Louisiana Levee District, the Southeast Arkansas Levee District, and the Mississippi Levee Board, the Governor's Office Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), the Coast Guard, City of Vicksburg, Warren County, and the affected Louisiana parishes.

"Phase one is the preparation and phase two is execution," Pigott said.

The archives were helpful in identifying areas in the southeastern Arkansas area that have had problems. Pigott said that there were historic issues near the Greenville Bridge and at Willow Lake.

"During this event, Arkansas was actually in pretty good shape," Pigott said. "We had a successful flood fight where we dammed up the Willow Lake area to create a water berm over the sand boils to reduce velocity through the sand boils to the point where it was not capable to move material. If sand boils are moving material, it could be moving the foundation of the levee.

"Our main objectives were to patrol the levees looking for levee slides and sand boils," said Eddie Miller, project manager, Mississippi River Levees (MRL) who acted as Sector Commander for the levees in Arkansas. "The areas we were most concerned with were a sand boil just above the Greenville Bridge and numerous boils in the Willow Lake area."

Miller said approximately 3,500 sandbags were put out at the sand boil at the Greenville bridge. A sand boil is a formation produced by extreme water pressure.

To try and control the numerous sand boils in the Willow Lake area, the levee board decided to build up turn roads that encircled the sand boils creating a water berm. The water berm increased the head pressure over the sand boils slowing the flow which helped reduce or stop the sand boils from carrying material. There were many miles of seepage along the levee and berm toe in Arkansas, but these areas were the major concern.

The project sponsor in Arkansas for MRL is the Southeast Arkansas Levee District. The levee district closed the levees to vehicular traffic. When they were not filling and placing sandbags, other employees rode the levee from 6:30

a.m. to 9 p.m. each day keeping the traffic off the levee and looking for levee slides or other problems.

The east bank Mississippi River levees and Yazoo Backwater area levees did experience some of the typical problems of sand boils, seepage, and slides but not as much as other areas. Sam Horton, Greenwood Area Engineer, said that their main concern was the significant amount of sand boils and seepage under the levee in the Buck Chute area, which is located at the southwestern end of Eagle Lake. Also of big concern was the backwater sump area.

"A large part of the Delta east of the Mississippi River levees drains to 'the funnel' just north of Vicksburg and there is no place for the water to go during high river stages," Horton said. "Even when the river crested and started to go down, we still had to worry that rainfall would continue to push the sump area higher."

"Damage would have been much greater in this area if the levees had not been there," Horton said. "The backwater levees and structures succeeded in keeping about nine feet of water out of the lower Delta and more than 20 feet out of the Eagle Lake area.

"What helped this office in our flood fight response were three things," Horton said. "First, the flood was exclusively the Mississippi River, not the Yazoo Basin, so we only had to flood fight one front. Being confined to the Mississippi River levees was a big difference from the flood in 1973 which made this flood less taxing.

"Second, our construction program was also slow at the time so most everyone could help with the flood fight. Thirdly, we also got an early start with the levee

board and had some preparatory meetings with them to make sure we knew the trouble spots and what to do."

The Mississippi Levee Board maintains 212 miles of levee along the Mississippi River. This year marked the fourth highest reading in Greenville since 1927 when the river crested at 57.4 feet. Peter Nimrod, the Mississippi Levee Board's chief engineer, said that the levee board had a meeting on March 24 where they initiated phase one flood fight.

"We organized inspectors that rode the levee daily Monday through Friday," Nimrod said. "Later on, the river went above 55.0 feet which initiated a phase two stage at Greenville. We closed the levee to the general public and our inspectors looked at the levee twice a day, seven days a week during this phase."

The inspectors rode the levees to monitor areas for levee slides, seepage and sand boils. Nimrod said the area offices were a great help because they would contact the levee board as soon as they found any problems. The main problem areas impacted by sand boils were the Buck Chute area near Eagle Lake, Black Bayou Cutoff above Greenville, and the areas in Francis, Miss. and Bolivar County.

"There was a lot of sandbagging where we built rings around the sand boils in these areas," Nimrod said. "We also put in sandbag weirs in ditches to stop the movement of material from under the levees.

"In the end, we had few problems but nothing that would jeopardize the integrity of the levee. It was a good test of our levee system and we were very pleased. It also gave us a chance to find problem areas that we will work with the Vicksburg District to fix."

*Continued on page 7*



**Workers unload sand bags to be placed at sand boils and along shoreline of river.**



## Park rangers' good communications skills come into play while flood fighting

BY LAURA BETH LYONS, PAO

**T**wo park rangers with the Vicksburg District, Ernie Lentz and Brian Westfall, proved to be a great team dealing with the media and supporting the Rock Island District in Quincy, Illinois.

Lentz is a natural resource specialist at Arkabutla Lake, and Westfall is a natural resource specialist at DeGray Lake.

When Westfall was working in Pass Christian after Hurricane Katrina, he met some team members from the Rock Island District who were also working with the aftermath of Katrina.

So he was very eager when the opportunity occurred to help the folks in Illinois with the flooding situation.

"I was very glad that I answered the call to help and was able to repay the Rock Island District for helping us," he said. "It was a role that was similar to dealing with our lake and much like the role in Katrina. We went into a customer care mode and dealt with the local and national media," Westfall said.



**Iowa's Governor Chet Culver shakes hands with Brian Westfall, upon their arrival to Waterloo, Iowa. At right is Ernie Lentz.**

Westfall was stationed in Quincy for about 12 days and helped setup the emergency field office and became the public affairs and safety officer.

Lentz initially went to Iowa City when the water was about to crest, but headed to Quincy once the water receded at Iowa

City. When Lentz arrived in Quincy, the water was still building up to the crest.

"We talked with the media and contacted subject matter experts, and explained to the media what the Corps was there to do, and by doing so, this set the tone," said Lentz.

### **Floods** —Continued from page 6

The area in the Vicksburg District that was in phase two flood fighting for the longest amount of time was the west bank of the Mississippi River on the Louisiana side. Phase one flood fighting activities began on March 26 in this area, and progressed to a phase two by April 5, with all phases ending on May 13.

During the phase one stage, the Vidalia Area Office coordinated preliminary flood fight operations with the Fifth Louisiana Levee Board and patrolled the levees eight hours a day. When they reached phase two, they increased levee patrols to 24 hours, around the clock checking and monitoring for levee slides, heavy seepage, and sand boils. Also involved was the monitoring of hundreds of relief wells previously installed by the Corps to control seepage.

The river stage at Natchez exceeded its 1973 record of 56.7 feet with this year's 57 feet. Tom Matthews, Vidalia Area Engineer, said the flood of 1973 is seen by most folks in the area as a high water "benchmark." Unlike in 1973, however, the backwater levees were never threat-

ened due to a lack of high water on the Black and Red Rivers along with very little local interior rainfall.

Several areas known as "hot spots" required a significant amount of sandbagging to combat the numerous sand boils and heavy seepage experienced along the nearly 200 miles of mainline Mississippi River Levee within the Vidalia Area Office. These "hot spots" included Lake Bruin State Park, Davis Landing, Kemp Bend, and the area above Lake St. John.

The levee board took the lead in performing the intensive sandbagging operations required to deal with these problems. They utilized parish inmate labor to help fill and place sandbags which were delivered by the National Guard or Louisiana DOTD trucks. The Vidalia Area Office supplied more than 102,000 sandbags to the levee board.

The key elements to a successful flood fight were levee improvements made since 1973 and proper maintenance. The result was no huge significant adverse impact to people and property located on



**Helicopter's sighting of sand boil.**

the protected side of the levee.

Matthews' advice for flood fighting was "to take the needed steps to fight a flood before the actual event occurs. We have to make sure that our structures and levees are in good condition at all times."

"It was a great team effort," Matthews said. "The last significant flood event was in 1997 so it's been 11 years since we have seen this much water. It was also a good training exercise since we have a lot of new people, and that gave them good experience on flood fight activities and procedures."

## Enid Lake names wildlife management area in honor of long-time volunteer

BY SHIRLEY J. SMITH, PAO

Corps officials, area residents and local sportsmen at Enid Lake remembered and honored a long-time volunteer by naming a wildlife management area in his honor. The late Wayland Dean Hill, Sr., was honored during a ceremony held May 15 at the Wildcat Brake Wildlife Management Area at Enid Lake.

In 1988, Mr. Hill organized a 133-

member volunteer group, "Otoucalofa Sportsmen's Club" and signed a volunteer agreement in 1989 with the Corps to establish the Wildcat Brake Wildlife Management area. He led a workforce and spent countless hours performing conservation management practices, which transformed the area to its earlier degree of productivity.

Hill led the initial conservation effort of the Wildcat Brake Wildlife Management Area, and continued to oversee and perform conservation management practices in the area until his death in November 2006.

In 1990, he was recognized as Conservationist of the Year; in 1991, was recognized as a finalist in the Take Pride in America Program; in 1992, he was a state and national winner for his conservation efforts of Enid's Wildcat Brake Wildlife Management Area.

Mr. Hill's devotion to con-

Photos by Alfred Dulaney



The plaque placed at the Dean Hill Wildlife Management Recreation Area at Wildcat Brake.



Following the dedication ceremony, Wayland Hill with wife Glenda, Col Wehr, and sons Josh and Wayland III, admire the plaque.

servation has not only made significant impacts to the natural resources at Enid Lake, but has impacted the citizens of the surrounding area and conservationists throughout the State of Mississippi.

"Mr. Hill's devotion to the preservation of Mississippi's natural resources, in particular his significant contributions and accomplishments at Enid Lake, make this the right thing to do. Mr. "Dean" was a true friend and supporter of Enid Lake as well as wildlife conservation, in general," said Billy Samuels, resource manager at Enid Lake.

## Louisiana Field Office conducts annual least tern survey

BY WILLIAM OLIVER

June 2008 marked the ninth year that the Louisiana Field Office, Monroe, conducted an interior least tern survey on the Red River Waterway. The surveys for this nesting season play a very important part in the upcoming five year status review of this endangered species. Surveys will be conducted during the months of June, July and August.

Each survey covers more than 150 miles of the Red River for a duration of 3-4 days. The upper Red River from Index, Arkansas to the Louisiana state line boasts some of the finest least tern habitat in the southern U.S. The sandbars along this stretch of the river can

be a mile long and a quarter mile wide. Sandbars are evaluated for elevation, vegetation, sand quality, debris and rock presence, predator accessibility, and river area locations.

Least terns are hardy nesters and exceptional parents. Hopefully, their successful rebound will be similar to the whitetail deer and wild turkey. They respond very well to habitat maintenance which may include vegetation removal



Least Tern egg on sandbar.

or using dredge material to build new sandbars. Data collection by Louisiana Field Office staff, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologists, and local volunteers will contribute to future management practices that could be implemented soon on Corps projects.

Photos by Joe Haller



Above: Sandbars are evaluated for wildlife habitat.

Below: Days later, survey finds 3 eggs.



Least Terns guarding nest.



## Grenada Lake's Thunder on Water Festival promotes safe boating

BY WAYNE STOGSDILL

Despite the fact that torrential thunderstorms dropped a total of approximately 4.21 inches of rainfall, the weather was still hot and humid, with the temperature reaching upper 90s, with a low of mid to upper 70s.

The weather, coupled with high gas prices, of course, made an impact on this year's number of visitors to the festival, but was no match for the enthusiasm shown by the crowd who did brave the conditions. Grenada Lake celebrated the 16th Annual "Thunder on Water" Safe Boating Festival with activities beginning on Saturday, June 7, 2008 and concluding on Sunday, June 15, 2008.

An estimated 93,412 visitors attended the three main days of the festival which was down 24 percent from the 123,006 visitors who attended this event in 2007. Some of the 2008 Thunder on Water Events included: Thunder on Water Pageant, TOW Softball Tournament, Rebel Amusement Carnival, Arts

& Crafts Show, Youth Fishing Rodeo, Zambelli Fireworks Extravaganza, Lighted Boat Parade, 5-Mile Run/3-Mile Walk, Rodeo, and Professional Championship Wrestling. Grenada and Enid Lake's water safety teams made an estimated 2,778 direct water safety contacts, and innumerable indirect contacts.

This festival is by far the most labor intensive special event conducted by Grenada Lake requiring months of preparation and the involvement from every facet of the Grenada community.

It would be impossible to conduct an event of this magnitude without the support of the community and the numerous volunteers that made this event a success. All four of the Corps' north Mississippi lakes supported this event by supplying equipment and materials, and the gracious and professional service provided by the Enid Lake rangers was invaluable.

The previous 15 years of experience allowed the Grenada Lake staff and contractors to perform each facet of this event with an almost mechanical pre-

cision. Set-up for this event included tasks such as site preparation, installation of fencing, signs, wood chips, sand, stages, etc. Operation included logistical support of all activities including traffic control, parking, facility cleanliness, and equipment support and fueling. Clean-up consisted of taking down the events, repairing the grounds, and cleaning up after 93,412 visitors. There were relatively few complaints and incidents making this year's "Thunder on Water" Safe Boating Week Festival among our most successful.

The festival was in recognition of National Safe Boating Week. The Corps conducted programs throughout the weekend promoting the value of water and boat safety.

"Although the 16th annual event has just wrapped up, plans are already being made for next year, with some changes in store. We are setting the dates for next year, and we are definitely planning to have some kind of musical program next year," said Walter McCool, Grenada's executive tourism director.

## Partnership creates water safety awareness

BY PAMELA ROWLAND, LAKE OUACHITA

The Lake Ouachita Field Office, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and Entergy have partnered with NASCAR great, Mark Martin, in an effort to promote water safety and safe boating on Arkansas Waters. The goal of this promotional partnership is to save lives by creating awareness of water safety.

To have such a famous hometown personality assisting with promoting water safety and safe boating was like a dream come true. "We are passionate about this project because we realize the simplest water safety message can go a long way when it comes to saving lives. No one understands the importance of water safety and safe boating until they have to pull a drowned child from the water. Those are images one never forgets," said Pamela Rowland, natural resource specialist at Lake Ouachita.

The statistics speak for themselves. Each year thousands of people drown in the United States. Two hundred of these drowning deaths are children, and several thousand other children are treated in hospitals for submersion accidents which can leave children with permanent brain damage and respiratory health problems. With statistics like these we must remember that it only takes a few minutes for small children to wander off and it only takes a few seconds to drown. Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental deaths for persons 15-44 years of age. What is really surprising is that two-thirds of all people who drown never had any intention of being in the water!

The 4 major causes of drowning are: (1) not wearing a life jacket, (2) abuse of alcohol, (3) lack of sufficient swimming skills, and (4) hypothermia

Photo courtesy of Arkansas Game and Fish Commission



**NASCAR driver Mark Martin and Pamela Rowland, natural resource specialist, standing at Mark Martin Ford and Mercury Dealership.**

For added convenience and safety the Corps created the Life Jacket Loaner Program in 2007. At Lake Ouachita loaner life jackets are available at Buckville, Spillway, Brady, Crystal, Joplin, Denby and Twin Creek beaches.

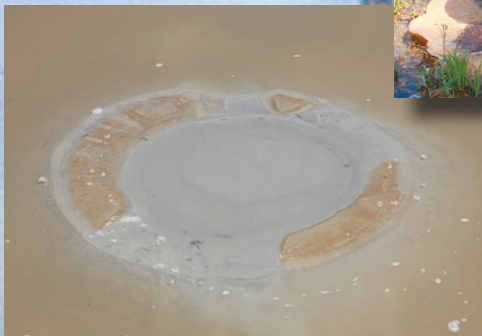


## THE FLOODS OF 2008

**Sand boils were prevalent during the flood.**



**Col Wehr inspects a relief well at Buck Chute**



**The Flood of 2008 caused many wildlife to be displaced, such as alligators and cattle**



**A setting sun above flood waters of the "Big Muddy".**

**Several unprotected areas along the Mississippi River were inundated by the floods; including some parks (like this one), hunting camps and homes.**



**The MOTOR VESSEL William James pushes onward beneath the bridges above the flooded Mississippi**





## THE FLOODS OF 2008

**Waters with Flood of 2008 consumed homes in various locations, including homes along highways 61 north and 465.**



**Flood waters affected businesses along the Port of Vicksburg, and caused difficulties for employees to travel to and from work.**



**Flood water at Vicksburg City Front shows Flood of 2008 water creeping towards the 1973 flood mark.**





## Galgani deploys to Iraq

Staci Galgani, an administrative specialist with the District, is currently serving in Iraq.

She is working for Morale Welfare and Recreation. Duties will include maintaining and updating the Maximo database which tracks accountability of people that work within the compound. She will also assist with billeting issues, perform general office functions, and work with the local nationals by helping set up their weekly bazaars.

Galgani began working for the Vicksburg District in June 2006 at the Lake Ouachita field office as an office automation assistant. At the field office, she performs all of the administrative functions and provides customer support.

She attended National Park Community College in Hot Springs, Arkansas. A native of Hot Springs, she is the daughter of Alvin and Pam Galgani, also of Hot Springs.



**Staci Galgani**

## Sorrels deploys to Iraq

Michael Sorrels, a civil engineer with the Vicksburg District, is currently serving in Iraq.

As a project engineer in the Gulf Region South District, Iraq, he will assist with the mission of building infrastructure and governance in Iraq. The projects will include various infrastructure construction such as bridges, roadways, water control and supply, and electrical substations.

Sorrels began working for the District in April 2003 as a student intern. His

present position is civil engineer in the hydraulics branch of the engineering and construction division. There, he works as part of the hydraulic and hydrologic team that performs hydraulic and hydrologic analyses to evaluate study areas.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Mississippi State University, and is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

A native of Vicksburg, he is the son of Darrell and Barbara Sorrels.



**Michael Sorrels**

## Porter receives Woman of the Year Award

Holly G. Porter, engineer with planning programs and project management division, recently received The Woman of the Year Award at the District's annual awards ceremony.

Porter joined the project management team last year and has been busy working on projects from Tunica to Lonoke, Ark. She is a current Vicksburg District Leadership Development

Program member, and a valued member of the District's recruiting team.

She served as vice president of the Society of Women Engineers and participates in the District's mentoring program.

Porter earned a Bachelor's Degree in civil engineering and a Master's Degree in business administration from Mississippi State University.



**Holly G. Porter**

## Forestry student receives Student of the Year Award

David W. Carraway, a co-op student with operations division, recently received the Student of the Year Award at the District's annual awards ceremony.

Carraway was recognized for his outstanding support to the regulatory branch staff. His exemplary attitude coupled with the ability to quickly learn and perform demanding tasks led

to his rapid integration as an outstanding performer.

His performance constantly exhibits the Corps' values of Safety, Integrity, and Respect. His profound values, exceptional abilities, and "can do" attitude reflect favorably upon himself, the District, and the Corps.

Carraway is a senior forestry major at Mississippi State University.



**David W. Carraway**



# Bike Patrol Comes To Sardis Lake

BY CODY SCRUGGS

Visitors to Sardis Lake this summer will notice a new addition to the Ranger force. In an effort to be more accessible

Photos courtesy of Ranger Update



**Bicycle visitor assistance patrol team members shown are left to right, Cowan Hunter, Torick Frison, Cody Scruggs, George Harris, Chris Gurner, and Ramon Pierce.**

to the visiting public, Sardis Lake will be the first lake in the Vicksburg District to implement a Bicycle Visitor Assistance Patrol Team for the Lower Lake recreation areas as well as the Clear Creek

recreation area.

Sardis Lake contacted several other agencies as well as Corps lakes in other districts which had already implemented bike patrols, seeking their input. All agreed that a patrol vehicle created a barrier between the ranger and the visiting public, but the bicycles were very effective in changing people's perception, thus making the ranger more approachable. Although the bicycle patrol will still be enforcing the rules and regulations as needed, their main goal will be visitor contacts through beach demonstrations, pavilion talks and meeting visitors face to face. Vehicle patrols will continue to remain the most common method for ranger patrols, however, for accessing the densely concentrated, and often congested facilities around the Lower Lake, switching some of the patrol work to bicycles offers clear advantages:

**Greater accessibility**—Rangers on bike patrol will be positioned for greater accessibility and interaction with the public.

**Greater awareness**—To some degree, the patrol vehicle isolates the ranger from the visitor. Rangers on bike patrol should be able to see and hear much more of what is going on in our areas.

**Improved response times**—On busy weekends, vehicle traffic often proves an impediment to our patrol vehicles in responding to accidents or emergencies, this problem should be lessened by the bike patrols.

**Environmentally Friendly**—Using the bikes conserves fuel and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

While at the lake this summer if you see a bike patrol ranger feel free to ask questions or give them comments. If you have any questions, please contact the Sardis Lake Field Office at 662-563-4531.

## HR News

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) recently launched its revamped Senior Executive Service (SES) website.

The site includes new web technology and is designed for easier navigation by members of the SES, executive resources staff, and other interested parties.

"The SES is a committed and qualified group of people dedicated to their work on behalf of the American people," said OPM Director

Linda M. Springer. "This new site will help our executives to have easy access to important information sources."

In addition to the updated technology, the website includes new content in the following areas:

*Recruitment and Selection: Scientific or Professional Positions*

*Recruitment and Selection: Senior Level Positions*

*Executive Development: Types of Leader Development*

*Executive Development: Executive Development*

*Community Executive Development: Other Developmental Opportunities*

*References: Statutes*

*References: Code of Federal Regulations*

*References: Other Legal References*

The SES website may be found at <http://www.opm.gov/ses/>.

# Mississippi Delta Headwaters Project addresses urban boom effects in northwest Mississippi

BY JOAN LANIER

The Demonstration Erosion Control Project (DEC) was authorized in 1984. Its purpose is to provide a means for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, now known as the Natural Resource Conservation Service to work cooperatively and demonstrate various methods to reduce flooding. It also addresses major sediment and erosion problems in the eastern foothills section of the Yazoo Basin in northwest Mississippi.

The original six authorized watersheds were Hotophia Creek, Batupan Bogue, Hickahala Creek, Black Creek, Otoucalofa Creek, and Long Creek. Subsequent authorizations added 10 other watersheds to the DEC project: Burney Branch, Sherman Creek, Town Creek (Charleston), Toby Tubby Creek, Abiaca Creek, Coldwater River, Hurricane-Wolfe Creeks, Cane-Mussacuna Creeks, Pelucia Creek, and Yalobusha River. The watersheds range in size from 220 acres to 423,000 acres and total 1,887,000 acres or approximately 2,950 square miles. Technical assistance was obtained by joint agency effort from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Sedimentation Laboratory at Oxford, Mississippi, the United States Geological Survey and the Engineer Research Development center in Vicksburg. The project name was changed to the Mississippi Delta Headwaters Project (MDHP) in 2004.

The widespread problems and damages in the project watersheds are of sufficient magnitude and complexity that a comprehensive watershed approach is required. There are a number of major structural features utilized in the MDHP to achieve the

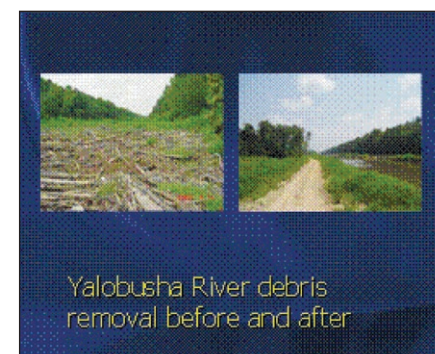
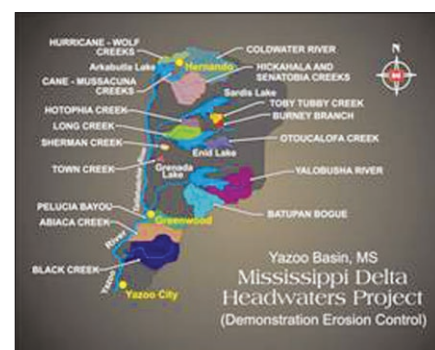
project goals of reduction of flooding, sediment transport and soil erosion. These features include riser pipe grade control structures, low and high drop grade control structures, floodwater retarding structures, bank stabilization, channel improvement, and box culvert grade control structures.

As problems develop within the MDHP authorized watersheds, the team identifies areas that need to be addressed through the above mentioned measures. A prime example is in the Coldwater River Watershed (CRW). Within this watershed just above Arkabutla Lake, a tornado touched down several years ago resulting in significant woody debris such as large trees being deposited in the river. Additional debris from bank caving and storm water runoff collected upstream of the tornado introduced debris and has resulted in channel restrictions that reduce the flow capacity of the river.

Because of the reduced flow capacity, this area is experiencing low land flooding in the timberlands and chronic inundation of Holly Springs Road in Desoto County. The inundation has created a threat to public safety. In 2003 the MDHP team began designing a plan to remove the debris. The contract to remove the debris will be awarded this year. The debris removal project in the Coldwater River will provide an unrestricted outlet for the increased storm water runoff in the coldwater River Basin. This increased runoff is the result of significant urban development for the past twenty years.

A similar project was designed and implemented in the Yalobusha River with much success. This area remained choked for decades prior to MDHP implementing measures to help alleviate the problems caused by years of sedimentation.

Photos by Lester Holt



Using a watershed approach to solving erosion and sedimentation problems, the MDHP project team continues to implement additional measures such as bank stabilization, riser pipes, and low drop grade control structures to help keep the vegetation and sediment in the foothills and not in the Coldwater River. By implementing these measures the MDHP seeks to reduce the scale and frequency of main stream debris removal projects.



# Grenada Lake hosts tournaments

Grenada Lake hosted two major events during the May 3-4 weekend. Activities included Cabela's Crappie USA Regional Tournament and the 18th Annual USA Championships and Lofton Classic Archery Tournament.

Grenada Lake hosted a major fishing tournament every weekend during the month of April, and three more tournaments were held in May, preserving Grenada Lake's reputation as one of our nation's premier fishing lakes.



**Bobber the Water Safety Dog made a special appearance at the fishing rodeo**

Saturday, May 3, 2008, was no exception as Grenada Lake hosted Cabela's Crappie USA Fishing Tournament. Eighty one teams competed for the first place check of \$5,000.00, which went to the team of Mike Walters of Troy, Ohio, and Rick Solomon of Piqua, Ohio, weighing in a seven fish catch of 10.63 pounds. Taking big fish honors for the tournament was the team of Charles Cantrell of Madon, Georgia, and Rick Howard of Warner Robins, Georgia, weighing in a Grenada Lake Slab at 2.26 pounds. Grenada Lake's Water Safety Team also set-up their water safety booth at the Crappie Kids Fishing Rodeo. Grenada Tourism

made this event especially successful by stocking the Catfish Ponds with 468 pounds of farm raised catfish. To the delight of the youth, Bobber the Water Safety Dog made a special appearance at the fishing rodeo.

On May 3 & 4, 2008, nearly 200 people gathered at the catfish ponds for a weekend of fun, food, fellowship, and an archery tournament as Grenada Lake hosted the 18th Annual USA Championships and Lofton Classic Archery Tournament.

The archers came from across the southeastern U.S. including the states of Texas, Missouri, and Illinois to participate in this event. This was truly a family affair as both male and female, and young and old competed in 13 classes. Along with the archery tournament the event included novelty shoots, concessions, crafters and vendors, potluck dinner, and live entertainment by the Kattawar Brothers.

**Right: Crappie fish tournament winners left to right are Rick Solomon and Mike Walters.**



**The activities were fun for youth and adults, as demonstrated by this archery shoot.**



## Field Trips at Sardis Lake more than a picnic

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BILL LATHAM

As the end of school approaches and spring is in the air, many students look forward to a field trip to Sardis Lake. A field trip to the lake normally means a picnic and time to play, however there is a group of Oxford students who will get a little bit more.

The group of students will have time to picnic and enjoy the lake but they first have to make a few pit stops. Park Ranger Chris Gurner has been working with science classes conducting Adopt-A-Stream and talking about environmental issues during the past semester.

As part of the trip the students are given a tour of the dam, a walk along the swamp trail, and as a final stop



**Park ranger Chris Gurner discusses environmental issues with students.**

before lunch the waste water treatment facility.

Chris takes time to describe the process of treating waste water from start to finish. The students leave with a much better understanding of how the process works and the importance of releasing uncontaminated water back into the environment.

# DeGray Lake's highs and lows

BY STACY SIGMAN  
SUPERVISORY PARK RANGER

**D**uring December 1982, Mother Nature showed her full potential. The entire Caddo River Basin flooded continuously and the lake level at DeGray Lake reached an all-time record elevation of 420.50', that was 2.5 feet below the emergency spillway outlet. The dam and dike systems held tight and the lower Ouachita Basin was protected from the raging Caddo River and its minor tributaries. Since that winter, many floods have visited the river basin, but none of the 1982 magnitude.

In December 2007, Mother Nature once again showed her unpredictable behavior. As the southeastern United States suffered one of the worst droughts since the 1940's, DeGray Lake reached an all-time low elevation of 393.90', approximately 26.5 feet below the maximum flood of 1982.

Several minor and one major boating accident was directly attributed to these low water conditions, as well as lost revenue to concessionaires, lessees and the local economy. Southwest Power Administration worked closely with the Corps to reduce power generation until water levels returned to normal. Water levels continued to fall approximately an inch a day due to evaporation. The water level was further drawn down by Kimzey Rural Water Association, which draws about one million gallons of water per day.

The lake manager, supervisory ranger, and ranger staff spent many hours in conversation discussing the challenges customers were facing. Many of these individuals believed that it would take years for DeGray Lake to return to normal pool levels. To say those statements were short-sighted would be like saying Mickey

Mantle was a just another baseball player.

In early 2008, DeGray Lake received its first significant rainfall since the drought started in late December 2007. By the 7th day of March, water levels had reached 408.19' and all project operations were back to normal... so everyone thought. For the next month, north and central Arkansas received two 100 year floods which caused severe flooding along the White River, Arkansas River, and Ouachita River Basins. DeGray Lake quickly swelled to elevation 417.38, which is the third highest level recorded. This required the ranger staff to monitor and inspect flood structures 24/7, communicate with the visiting public, and ask campers to move camping units due to rising water levels and closed roads. The DeGray Lake Resort State Park closed all daily operations which consisted of an eighteen hole PGA rated golf course, 96 room lodge and restaurant and approximately 113 campsites.

Photo by Rick Dwyer



**Above: The Spillway Day Use area at the apex of the 2008 flood event. The Spillway provides approximately 100 parking spots for trucks with trailers.**

**Below: The emergency flood tunnel at DeGray Lake Power Plant.**



*Continued on page 17*

## Lake Greeson celebrates Earth Day

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MARTY REYNOLDS

**D**id you know that April 22, 1970 is when the modern environmental movement began? Maybe not, because so much else occurred in 1970: the Kent State shootings was in the news, we witnessed the advent of fiber optics, "Bridge Over Troubled Water" was on the charts, and Apollo 13 was launched.

Earth Day founder, Gaylord Nelson, then U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, proposed the first nationwide environmental protest to force the issue onto the national agenda. Earth Day 1970 enlisted support from democrats and republicans, rich and poor, rural and urban residents. It led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, and eventually the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. What a historic day in 1970!

On May 6th, 2008, Lake Greeson natural resource specialists promoted environmental stewardship and water safety at the annual Earth Day festivities in Pike County, Arkansas. Corps personnel teamed with personnel from the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Arkansas State Parks, Arkansas State Forestry Commission, Pike County Extension Service, and the Pike County Rural Water Association. Personnel from all agencies presented a variety of environmental programs to all fifth



**Bob Stafford demonstrates to students how to properly apply one of the water safety devices.**

graders from Pike County Public Schools.

The natural resource specialists at Lake Greeson presented an interpretive program on hydroelectric power and its benefits to people and the environment. They also incorporated water safety into the discussion by promoting the wonderful recreational opportunities that result from building an impoundment for hydroelectric power and flood control. More than 250 students participated in the annual event.

Pike County and Lake Greeson are green.....and becoming greener!



# Arkabutla Lake Spirit of America 2008!

STORY AND PHOTOS COURTESY OF  
RANGER UPDATE

This May, Arkabutla Lake hosted its second annual "Spirit of America: National Youth Boating Education Program." The Spirit of America Foundation began in 1995 in Lake County, Ohio. The program has grown nationally over the past 13 years from coast to coast in the United States.

For the past two years, Arkabutla Lake is proud to be the first Corps Lake to offer this unique educational opportunity for the area's youth. This year's participants were students from the Hernando Middle School in DeSoto County, Mississippi. The students first attend the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Safe Boating Course which consists of 6 – 8 hours of classroom lecture on legal boating requirements. Completing the NASBLA Safe Boating Course will allow

## ARKANSAS

participants to obtain their Mississippi Boat Operator's License.

Upon successfully completing the NASBLA Safe Boating Course, the students then have an option of filling out a registration form in order to participate in the Spirit of America program where they can take part in hands-on training on how to operate different types of watercraft.

During the Spirit of America program, participants receive specialized instruction including boating and water safety curriculum of at least 6 hours of hands-on training involving a wide variety of watercraft. Students also learned about basic rules of water safety, etc. The program has also been designed to help strengthen participants' self esteem, allow participation in teamwork efforts, and encourage participants to become better stewards of our Nation's water resources while promoting boating and water safety.

The number of participants in a two year span has more than tripled at Arkabutla Lake from six in 2007 to twenty-two in 2008. To help meet the demands of this growing program, along with the Corps, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks and DeSoto County Search and Rescue have served as instructors and safeguards throughout the duration of the program over the past two years. Local volunteers Mr. John Gardner and Mr. Jim Sislow have also contributed their time and expertise by teaching the sailing portions of the program.

Arkabutla Lake is taking preventative action in helping eliminate boating and water related accidents. With this program, more youth can receive crucial hands-on experience about boating and water safety that will prepare them to become a generation of safe boaters.

## DeGray Lakes—Continued from page 16

After lake levels reached 414.00', the paved road into Shouse Ford Recreation Area was closed and the only way in or out was an old dirt road ironically called the "High Road to Shouse Ford". This road was constructed in the early 1990's following a flood event that left campers stranded in Shouse Ford. Most of the long-time campers and more experienced ranger staff knew the name and location of the dirt road but some of the newer campers and ranger staff did not. Now, this knowledge has been passed to the next generation of campers and Park Rangers.

On April 11, 2008, the flood control tunnel was opened for the first time during a high-water event. The flood waters began to fall quickly and by April 23, approximately 9 feet of flood waters had been released through the flood tunnel and generators. DeGray Lake provided millions of dollars of flood damage reduction along the Caddo River and Lower Ouachita River basins just like the engineers designed.

One could say that DeGray Lake has seen its share of highs and lows, but one thing Arkansans can count on is the safety of the structures and the integrity of the employees who oversee day-to-day operations.

# Felsenthal hosts 22nd annual bream festival

STORY AND PHOTOS COURTESY OF  
RANGER UPDATE

For the past 22 years Memorial Day weekend has marked the annual bream festival held at Grand Marais Recreation Area, and this year was no exception. The event attracts visitors from throughout South Arkansas and North Louisiana to the town of Felsenthal, Arkansas.

The 2008 festival included food, arts and crafts, music, and a bream fishing tournament. Louisiana Field

office staff manned an information booth with water safety, boating safety and other free literature to cover most any type of outdoor recreational activity. A water safety film and guided tours of Felsenthal Lock & Dam were also provided to the attendees. The festival is held each year through the cooperation and planning by several

local groups and organizations. Preparation for next year's festival is already underway to bring visitors back to the Ouachita River and Felsenthal Arkansas.



Visitors tour Felsenthal Lock and Dam.

# Army Community Covenant signing ceremony reaffirms commitment to community

STORY BY KAREN MAGRUDER, PAO  
OFFICER, 412TH ENCOM

The Army Community Covenant Initiative was designed to foster and sustain community relationships and improve the quality of life for Soldiers and their families around active duty military posts. However, Vicksburg is a unique blend of Soldiers, Civilian Department of the Army employees and an area of the country without a local military post.

"The Army Community Covenant is a compact between Army units and the communities in which those units reside. The Covenant points out the community's recognition of the importance of the Army's Soldiers and their families in the defense of our freedoms and signals the community's commitment to assist those Soldiers and their families as they work to accomplish all assigned missions," according to Dwight Dyess, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, and facilitator for the ceremony.

In Vicksburg, the support base is truly blended because the 412th Engineer Command, the Corps of Engineers Engineering and Research Laboratory, the Corps' Mississippi Valley Division and the Vicksburg District, the 168th Engineer Brigade, and the Mississippi Army National Guard, all have people living and/or working in the city and Warren County.

In a June 6 signing ceremony, the Army engineers, both civilian and military, reaffirmed their commitment to the community. At the same time, the community reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the military elements of the community.

The strength of the family comes from the strength of the community. The community supports the family who, in turn, supports the Soldier. Vicksburg and Warren County are truly family friendly.

Photo by Sgt. Tristain Brown, 412th ENCOM



Shown signing the sponsorship agreement are, left to right, Army Reserve Ambassador David S. Haworth, Board of Supervisors president Richard George, Vicksburg District Commander Col. Michael C. Wehr, ERDC Director Dr. James Houston, MVD Commander Brig. Gen. Michael J. Walsh, and Maj. Gen. Paul Hamm.

"Without your support, our Soldiers could not deploy around the world to defend America's Freedom," said Maj. Gen. Paul Hamm, 412th ENCOM Commander.

## Seventeenth annual riverboat festival held on Ouachita River

STORY AND PHOTO COURTESY OF RANGER UPDATE

The 17th Annual Riverboat Festival was held on May 17th at Columbia, Louisiana. The event featured numerous exhibitors and musicians all of which gave the visitors a glimpse into the rich history and future of the area as related to the Ouachita River.

Rangers, Joe Haller, Jesse Wisterman and Robert Allen of the Louisiana Field Office, manned an information booth and provided pamphlets on water safety, boating safety, and recreational facilities on the Ouachita River.



Left to right, Joe Haller, Robert Allen and Jesse Wisterman assist visitors with pamphlets on water safety.

More than 2,000 visitors stopped by the booth while enjoying a day alongside the beautiful Ouachita River.

## CPAC selects Klein as labor relations specialist

Daniel A. Klein was selected as the new CPAC labor relations specialist. Mr. Klein started his career serving with the 3/75 Ranger Battalion. His most recent position was manager, labor relations, for the Pittsburgh District of the United States Postal Service, encompassing a workforce of more than 8,000 employees, with six separate bargaining units.



Daniel A. Klein

He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management and has earned certificates in both Mediation and Management. Dan is also a certified master trainer. His 22 years of service includes time spent in the bargaining unit serving as the executive vice-president of the NALC (National Association of Letter Carriers), Branch 1986 and then as President of Branch 1986.

Dan has 11 years in management as a supervisor, operations manager, and Postmaster. Dan's labor, operational experience, and background in Human Resource Management Mediation, should prove to be invaluable as he addresses the labor/management challenges within our organization.



# Engineering and construction camp affords students informed career choices

BY HENRY DULANEY, CHIEF, DESIGN  
BRANCH

As in the previous five years, the one week engineering and construction camp program, sponsored by the Society of American Military Engineers, was supervised by professional engineers and volunteers from engineering organizations in the Lower Mississippi Valley.

This sixth annual camp was held in Vicksburg June 8-14, and the campers were again housed at the 412th U. S. Army Reserve Center in Vicksburg. This year's camp hosted 40 students from Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Tennessee, Texas, Missouri, South Carolina, North Carolina, Maryland, Ohio, California, Pennsylvania, Hawaii, and an American school in Korea.

The camp is designed to provide high school students with an excellent opportunity to gain hands-on experience in engineering and construction skills in Vicksburg's wide-ranging engineering community.

The campers, consisting of 14 girls and 26 boys, were exposed to various activities to provide insight into available career choices in the fields of engineering and construction. Topics covered in this year's curriculum were environmental engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, geotechnical engineering, river engineering, military engineering, GIS, and information technology.

Col. Michael C. Wehr, Vicksburg District's Commander, was recently sworn in

as president of the Vicksburg Post of SAME, and was the first instructor that the students met.

The 40 campers were divided into four teams of 10 students each. The camp counselors, known as pilots and firstmates, led the students during the week-long journey into the field of engineering. Jason Mooney of the District's design branch served as head pilot this year.

The teams were scored on each activity for accuracy and team spirit. The winning team members were awarded a Northface backpack. The campers not only worked hard on the engineering activities, but they also engineered some fun during the week.

They participated in a Mardi Gras-themed jambalaya cook-off, a swim party cookout, a college-themed bowling night, a survivor type activity, and a luau complete with a pig with an apple in his mouth.

Although the cost for operating the camp cost about \$350 per camper, the camp fee was only \$50 per camper. The camp relies heavily on the volunteer efforts of those associated with the camp to defray costs. The funds for the camp were provided by contributions from individuals, SAME sustaining member firms, SAME posts, and other professional societies. The local engineering community pitched in to make this camping experience a success.

The 168th National Guard Engineer Group, the 412th Engineer Command, the Vicksburg Warren School District, Grand Gulf Nuclear Power Plant, Engineering Research and Development Center, the Mississippi Valley Division, and the Vicksburg District all took an active role in the planning and execution of the camp.

This year's camp also marked the first year of an official agree-

Photos by Alfred Dulaney



**Col. Wehr briefs students on the Orienteering Exercise.**

ment between the Corps and SAME on the planning and execution of the camp. Dennis Norris, chief of operations division and camp champion, spearheaded the development of the co-sponsorship agreement.

Other District personnel assisted with the publicity for the camp. They cooked for the campers, transported campers to and from the airport, served as camp counselors, directed extracurricular activities, took pictures, and served as instructors.

The parents of the campers were able to follow the week's activities by visiting the camp website <http://www.samevicksburg.org/camp/index.htm>. The photos on the site were updated on a daily basis. The camp staff has received calls and e-mails expressing appreciation for the impact that the camp has had on the campers.

At the graduation ceremony, they were impressed with the insightful words of the guest speaker, Brig. Gen Michael J. Walsh, Mississippi Valley Division's Commander. The campers all said that the camp was more than they expected.

The staff is dedicated to making the camp a success every year so that students can be provided with information on the field of engineering. The camp program also affords the students an opportunity to make an informed career choice. The camp enhances knowledge about the field of engineering, which is a critical need for our nation's prosperity and defense.



**Students discussing engineering and construction techniques are left to right, Christina Bonneau of Cibola, Tex., and Jessica Ridgway of Canton.**

## District Field Offices & Services

### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District

4155 E. Clay Street

Vicksburg, MS 39183

[www.mvk.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil)

email: [cemvk-pa@army.us.mil](mailto:cemvk-pa@army.us.mil).

Lake Ouachita	(501) 767-2101
Lake Greeson	(870) 285-2151
DeGray Lake	(870) 246-5501
Sardis Lake	(662) 563-4531
Arkabutla Lake	(662) 562-6261
Enid Lake	(662) 563-4571
Grenada Lake	(662) 226-5911
Bayou Bodcau	(318) 322-6391
JBj Waterway	(318) 322-6391
Ouachita-Black Rivers	(318) 322-6391
Golden Age Passports	(601) 631-5287
Aerial Photography	(601) 631-5709
Corps Wetland Permits	(601) 631-5289

*Apply, ask questions, or report violations*

Contracting & Bids	(601) 631-7706
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*Vendors, status of bids, specs*

Community Support	(601) 631-5223
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*Tours, speakers, volunteers*

Historical Questions & Research	(601) 634-7023
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*Mississippi River History Center*

Real Estate Issues	(601) 631-5220
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*Corps impacts to your property*

Employment Questions	(601) 631-5859
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*Vacancies, status, qualifications*

Historical Photographs	(601) 631-5020
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Environmental	(601) 631-5410
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## Other Vicksburg Engineer/ Federal Organizations:

Mississippi Valley Division

(601) 634-5760

Engineer Research & Development  
Center

(601) 634-2504

412th Engineer Command

(601) 636-1686

168th Engineer Group

(601) 313-5290

Vicksburg National Military Park

(601) 636-0583

U. S. Coast Guard Cutter Kickapoo

(601) 636-8304

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Ecological Services

(601) 629-6607

U. S. Army Recruiter

(601) 638-1203

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Vicksburg District C/PAO  
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Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435

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